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Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 PPT-02 SCS-03 L-03 H-03

SY-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 PA-03

USIA-15 SS-15 NSC-10 SCA-01 FBIE-00 RSR-01 /135 W
---------- 115139
P 171716Z AUG 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3419
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL CAPETOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, WA, SF
SUBJECT: DEPORTATION ANN SPARKLIN LOWELL

REF: STATE 161825

1. SUMMARY: THIS CABLE GIVES DETAILS OF EMBASSY'S DISCUSSION WITH AMCIT ANN SPARKLIN LOWELL, SECRETARY TO EXILED-BISHOP OF SOUTH WEST AFRICA COLIN WINTER. MISS LOWELL ARRIVED IN LONDON AUGUST 15 AFTER BEING EXPELLED FROM SOUTH AFRICA UNDER THE SAG'S SECURITY ACT. SHE WAS INFORMED OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY EMBASSY PRETORIA. SHE SAID SHE WAS SATISFIED WITH WHAT HAD BEEN DONE AND DID NOT INTEND AT THIS TIME TO LODGE A PROTEST TO THE SAG ON HER OWN BEHALF.

2. MISS LOWELL TALKED TO EMBOFF ABOUT HER SITUATION AFTERNOON AUGUST 16. SHE INTENDED INITIALLY TO SEEK ADVICE ON MAKING A PROTEST TO SAG. HOWEVER, WHEN SHE LEARNED THAT EMBASSY PRETORIA HAD EXPRESSED OUR UN-
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HAPPINESS TO SAG DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SHE

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SAID SHE WAS GRATEFUL FOR THIS PROMPT REACTION AND DID NOT INTEND TO MAKE A PROTEST ON HER OWN. WHETHER BISHOP WINTER WOULD WANT TO LODGE A PROTEST WAS SOMETHING SHE COULD NOT PREDICT. SHE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM BY TELEPHONE BUT ONLY BRIEFLY AS HE IS NOW ON VACATION IN IRELAND AND, UNHAPPILY, IS DOWN WITH MEASLES.

3. LOWELL GAVE THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT OF HER EXPERIENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA. SHE HAD BEEN SENT BY BISHOP WINTER TO CARRY HIS PERSONAL ASSURANCES TO HIS FORMER PARISHONERS LETTING THEM KNOW THAT HE STILL REMEMBERED THEM AND WAS CONCERNED WITH THEIR WELFARE. LOWELL WAS CARRYING THE BISHOP'S PECTORAL CROSS WHICH SHE HAD PLANNED TO HAND OVER TO HIS SUCCESSOR, BISHOP WOOD. IN ADDITION TO HER ECCLESIASTICAL MISSION, LOWELL, WHO IS ALSO A TEACHER, HOPED TO BE ABLE TO PICK UP LITERATURE AND INFORMATION WHICH WOULD BE OF VALUE TO HER. HOWEVER, ON BISHOP WINTER'S ADVICE SHE HAD GIVEN TOURISM AS THE REASON FOR HER VISIT IN FILLING OUT HER VISA APPLICATION.

4. THE FIRST INKLING LOWELL HAD THAT SHE WAS IN TROUBLE WAS WHEN THE GOVERNMENT AGENTS DRESSED IN CIVILIAN CLOTHES SERVED THE DEPORTATION ORDER ON HER WHEN SHE WAS VISITING DAVID DE BEER, A FORMER ASSOCIATE OF BISHOP WINTER, ON THE EVENING OF AUGUST 13. THEY GAVE NO REASON OTHER THAN CITING THE RELEVANT SECURITY REGULATIONS WHICH WERE SPECIFIED IN THE ORDER. AS SHE HAD UNTIL MIDNIGHT AUGUST 14 TO LEAVE AREAS UNDER SAG JURISDICTION, SHE DECIDED TO FLY TO WINDHOEK, MAKE CONTACT BRIEFLY WITH BISHOP WOOD AND FLY OUT EVENING OF AUGUST 14 (PRETORIA'S 2863). UPON HER ARRIVAL IN WINDHOEK, LOWELL WAS SERVED WITH ANOTHER NOTICE INFORMING HER THAT SHE WAS UNDER A DEPORTATION ORDER. SHE WAS TAKEN TO A ROOM OFF THE TRANSIT LOUNGE AND SEARCHED, AS WAS HER HAND LUGGAGE AND BAGGAGE WHICH WAS TAKEN TO ANOTHER ROOM. NONE OF THE OFFICIALS INVOLVED WOULD GIVE HER ANY MORE EXPLANATION FOR HER DEPORTATION THAN WHAT SHE ALREADY KNEW. ONE OFFICIAL, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

A WILLIAM WEBBER, CAME IN TO TALK WITH HER IN THE ROOM WHERE SHE WAS DETAINED WHILE AWAITING HER ONWARD FLIGHT, BUT MADE ONLY GENERAL CONVERSATION AND WAS NO MORE INFORMATIVE THAN THE REST. SHE COMPLAINED THAT MANY PAPERS HAD BEEN TAKEN FROM HER HANDBAG BUT WEBBER DENIED THAT THEY HAD BEEN REMOVED BY ANYONE AT THE AIRPORT AND SUGGESTED THAT SHE MUST HAVE LOST THEM. THE PAPERS INCLUDED A COLLECTION OF CLIPPINGS FROM

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SOUTH AFRICAN NEWSPAPERS ON THE OVAMBO STRIKES (WHICH
SHE HAD GOTTEN FROM DE BEER), HER NOTES ON HER
ITINERARY, SOME POSTERS SHE HADBOUGHT AT THE
CHRISTIAN INSTITUTE (WHICH WERE CRITICAL OF SOME
ASPECTS OF SAG POLICY BUT WHICH HAD NOT BEEN BANNED
BY THE AUTHORITIES) AND SOME FIFTY SUGGESTIONS FOR
THE TITLE OF A FORTHCOMING BOOK BY BISHOP WINTER ABOUT

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HIS EXPERIENCES IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA. LOWELL SAID
THE LATTER WERE GENERALLY OF A RELIGIOUS NATURE (E.G.
"THE FINGER OF GOD") AND SHE COULD NOT SEE HOW THEY
COULD BE CONSTRUED AS BEING SUBVERSIVE.

5. LOWELL LEFT WINDHOEK WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT AND
REPORTED BACK TO BISHOP WINTER'S HEADQUARTERS IN
LONDON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. SHE IS CURRENTLY STAYING
WITH ANOTHER OF THE BISHOP'S ASSISTANTS, BELINDA KIRBY

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MENTIONED IN PRETORIA'S 2888. LOWELL'S PRESENT PLANS
ARE TO REMAIN IN ENGLAND UNTIL OCTOBER WORKING ON
PROJECTS OF HER OWN AND HELPING WITH THE PREPARATIONS
FOR BISHOP WINTER'S UPCOMING SPEAKING TOUR IN THE U.S.

6. UPON HER ARRIVAL IN LONDON, LOWELL WAS IMMEDIATELY
CONTACTED BY A CORRESPONDENT OF THE RAND DAILY MAIL
WHO QUESTIONED HER ABOUT THE ACCURACY OF A STATEMENT
ON HER VISA APPLICATION TO THE EFFECT THAT SHE KNEW
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NO ONE IN SOUTH AFRICA. LOWELL SAID IT WAS TRUE
THAT SHE HAD KNOWN NO ONE IN SOUTH AFRICA BEFORE
GOING THERE BUT HAD OF COURSE BEEN GIVEN NAMES OF
PEOPLE TO LOOK UP. DAILY MAIL WAS ALSO INTERESTED IN
KNOWING WHETHER SHE PLANNED TO MAKE PROTEST AND CALLED
EMBASSY TO FIND OUT NAME OF OFFICER TO WHOM SHE HAD
SPOKEN. WE SAID THAT SHE HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH
APPROPRIATE EMBASSY OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS HER SITUATION.
THIS WAS PERFECTLY NORMAL AS SHE IS AN AMERICAN CITIZEN
AND HAD HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO CONTACT AMERICAN
OFFICIALS PRIOR TO HER ARRIVAL IN LONDON.

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
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